

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

DODE-00 NSC-05 /064 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4266

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 05482

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: ALLIANCE STUDY OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS: FRENCH
VIEWS

REF: USNATO 05376; STATE 135512

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH FRENCH PERMREP TINE AND
DEPUTY PERMREP DE LA FERRIERE, CHARGE GLEANED THE FOLLOW-
ING WITH REGARD TO FRENCH ATTITUDES TOWARD THE ALLIANCE
STUDY OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS:

(A) PREPARATIONS FOR BREZHNEV VISIT TO PARIS ARE PRE-
OCCUPYING FRENCH OFFICIALS WHO NORMALLY WOULD ADDRESS
ISSUES RELATED TO THE NATO EAST-WEST RELATIONS STUDY.
HOWEVER, DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE WEEK OF JUNE 20,
DE LA FERRIERE WILL PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OF QUAI AND
OTHER OFFICIALS WHERE US AND CANADIAN PROPOSED OUTLINES
WILL BE EXAMINED IN DETAIL.

(B) FRENCH DELEGATION, THUS, WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION AT
SPC MEETING ON JUNE 21 TO AGREE TO AN OUTLINE FOR THE
STUDY.

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(C) IN ORDER NOT TO IMPEDE INITIAL WORK IN CONNECTION WITH
THE STUDY, TINE SAID THAT THE FRENCH SPC REPRESENTATIVE
WOULD BE READY TO AGREE THAT ALLIES PROCEED WITH WORK
ROUGHLY COVERED BY PART 1 OF THE CANADIAN OUTLINE (REFTEL),
ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ISSUES FALLING NATURALLY UNDER
THIS RUBRIC AND DRAWN FROM THE US OUTLINE WOULD BE COVER-

ED. SPECIFICALLY, THE FRENCH DELEGATION BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT THAT ALLIES UNDERTAKE NOW THE COUNTRY STUDIES, DIVIDING UP THE WORK AS APPROPRIATE, AND DEVELOPING IN CONNECTION WITH THESE STUDIES A SPECTRUM OF POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING EACH WARSAW PACT COUNTRY.

(D) DE LA FERRIERE ANTICIPATED HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD AGREE WITH MOST ASPECTS OF THE US OUTLINE. BUT HE FLAGGED THE DIFFICULTIES THAT FRENCH LIKELY WOULD HAVE IN DEALING WITH "IMPLICATIONS." PARTICULARLY, HE CAUTIONED AGAINST PROPOSING ANY ALLIED EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON "HARMONIZED" WESTERN APPROACHES TO EAST-WEST ISSUES THAT COULD SUGGEST A SINGLE WESTERN POLICY TOWARD THE EAST. NOTING THAT THE US DOUBTLESS ALSO WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE CONSTRAINTS THAT WOULD BE OPERATING UPON THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DURING THE PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD, HE SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES SIMILARLY RECOGNIZED THAT THE US PROBABLY WOULD BE SEEKING TO GIVE THE PAPER AN "OPERATIONAL" DIMENSION THAT HE THOUGHT COULD BE ACCOMMODATED. AT THE SAME TIME, HE BELIEVED THAT WE SHOULD ANTICIPATE SOME DIFFICULT PASSAGES IN THE DISCUSSION ON CERTAIN ISSUES THAT WE AND THE FRENCH NEED TO NAVIGATE WITH GREAT CAUTION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

(E) CONCERNING THE DRAWING OF IMPLICATIONS FOR ALLIED POLICIES, HE THOUGHT THAT THE IDENTIFICATION OF A REASONABLE SPECTRUM OF POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE WOULD FACILITATE THE TASK OF ALSO IDENTIFYING DEVELOPMENTS TO BE INHIBITED, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.

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BLE, BY THE ALLIES AND THOSE TO BE ENCOURAGED, WHILE RECOGNIZING THE VERY REAL LIMITATIONS ON THE WEST IN SEEKING TO INFLUENCE EVENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE. HE HOPED IN THIS WAY THAT A DISCUSSION OF FINELY PARSED OPTIONS COULD BE AVOIDED AND EMPHASIS RATHER WOULD BE PLACED ON BROAD ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES. COMMENTING TO DE LA FERRIERE, CHARGE DREW ON PARA 4 OF REFTEL AND SAID THE US OUTLINE APPEARED TO ACCOMMODATE DESIRES HE DESCRIBED WITH REGARD TO DEALING WITH ALTERNATIVES. HE ALSO SAID THAT US HOPED FOR FULLEST POSSIBLE FRENCH CONTRIBUTIONS IN VIEW OF GREAT FRENCH COMPETENCE IN THESE MATTERS.

2. COMMENT: WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE POSITIVE CHARACTERIZATION BY BOTH TINE AND DE LA FERRIERE OF FRENCH INTEREST IN THE EAST-WEST STUDY. PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES THEY ARE ENCOUNTERING IN OBTAINING GUIDANCE ARE UNDERSTANDABLE AND WE DETECTED NO INSINCERITY IN THEIR EXPRESSIONS OF HOPE THAT THIS TEMPORARY IMPEDIMENT WOULD BE OVERCOME SO THE FRENCH COULD JOIN SHORTLY A CONSENSUS ON THE OUTLINE FOR

THE STUDY. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE SPC DISCUSSION JUNE 21
LIKELY WILL RESULT IN SUPPORT BY OTHERS FOR MOST ELEMENTS
OF THE US OUTLINE, THUS MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR
THE FRENCH TO RE-OPEN ISSUES SUBSEQUENTLY, THOUGH THEY
ARE FULLY ENTITLED TO DO SO. IN SUM, THE FRENCH SEEM TO
BE GIRDING TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE STUDY, AND
READY TO BRING SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO IT. THOUGH
THE OTHER ALLIES MAY HAVE A SPAT OR TWO WITH THE FRENCH
IN THE COURSE OF THIS EXERCISE, IT WILL NOT BE NOVEL IN
NATO AND MAY HELP STIMULATE THE KIND OF ACTIVE DEBATE

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